

*FACULTY AND
GUEST ARTIST RECITAL*

SOPHIA SILIVOS, violin (guest)

JENNIFER OWEN, violin (guest)

WAYNE BROOKS, viola (guest)

JOAN DERHOVSEPIAN, viola

CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, cello

KEVIN DVORAK, cello (guest)

*SONJA BRUZAUSKAS,
mezzo-soprano (guest)*

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

String Sextet
from Capriccio

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Maiblumen blühten überall
for soprano and string sextet

Alexander Zemlinsky
(1871-1942)

Marietta's Lied
from Die Tote Stadt

Erich Wolfgang Korngold
(1897-1957)
arr. Kevin Dvorak

INTERMISSION

String Sextet in E-flat Major
Allegro moderato
Andante con moto
Allegro ben moderato

Frank Bridge
(1879-1941)

The reverberative acoustics of Duncan Recital Hall magnify the slightest sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.

TRANSLATIONS

Alexander Zemlinsky

Maiblumen blühten überall (1898)

by Richard Dehmel

May-buds blossomed all around
May-buds blossomed all around;
he looked at me, so sad and tired.
A nightingale sang in the alder tree:
The blossom flees! The blossom flees!
The night was warm with scents,
warm as blood, as our blood;
and we were so young and joyless.
And above us in the bushes that song,
that sobbing song: Fires burn out!
He was so faithful and loved me so.
Wild poppy was blooming all around,
the sun drained us of our sweat.
And as the poppy buds turned red,
my cheeks in turn grew pale.
For bread, for hard-earned daily bread
he sweated doubly in the fields.
Fire-red the wild poppy stood;
for sure, his sweat was a devouring poison,
his cheeks, too, grew pale,
and in the corn the sun stabbed him dead.

Erich Wolfgang Korngold

Marietta's Lied

from *Die Tote Stadt* (1919)

Bring me, my true love,
the happiness that was left to me.
Evening falls in the grove –
you are light and day to me.
Heart throbs anxiously to heart –
hope soars up to heaven.

Even when sorrow darkly approaches,
come to me, my true love.
Lower your pale face –
death will not part us.
Though one day you must go from me,
believe that there is a resurrection.

BIOGRAPHIES

SOPHIA SILIVOS, violinist, has been a member of the Houston Symphony since 1992. Ms. Silivos began her career as first violinist of the Dakota Quartet and then was named principal second violinist of the New Mexico Symphony. She has performed as soloist with the Houston Symphony and served as Associate Concertmaster for the 2005-06 season. An ardent proponent of chamber music, she has appeared with ensembles throughout the United States and has performed live for public radio stations in Chicago, Houston and Minneapolis. Here in Texas, she appears regularly with the Greenbriar Consortium and the Foundation for Modern Music; she is a featured violinist for the St. Cecilia concert series. She has served on the faculties of the University of Houston and Augustana College, teaches privately and gives master classes. In the summer of 2007, Ms. Silivos was an invited participant in a three-week tour of China, performing solos with orchestra and giving recitals and master classes.

Originally from Australia, JENNIFER OWEN is now in her tenth season as Principal Second Violin of the Houston Symphony. She has also held the position of Principal First Violin of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (Australia) and Associate Concertmaster of the Richardson Symphony (Texas). She has performed as soloist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra (New York City), and the Houston Symphony. As a chamber musician, Ms. Owen was a member of the Canberra String Quartet for five years, including two years as resident graduate quartet at the Hartt School in Connecticut under the tutelage of the Emerson Quartet. She performed throughout Tasmania with the Virtuosi Tasmania Ensemble, and as a guest artist on faculty recitals at the Tasmanian Conservatorium. Most recently, she has appeared as guest artist on many faculty recital programs at Rice University and the University of Houston, and with Da Camera of Houston.

WAYNE BROOKS has served as principal violist of the Houston Symphony since 1985. Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Brooks joined the orchestra in 1977 as associate principal violist after graduating from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In addition to appearances as soloist with the Houston Symphony, he has appeared in chamber music performances with Joseph Silverstein, Lynn Harrell, Yefim Bronfman, Garrick Ohlsson, and Christoph Eschenbach. He has participated in concerts of chamber music in the Houston Symphony's previous INNOVA series, in performances with Da Camera of Houston, Greenbriar Consortium, and Mukuru "Arts for AIDS" series. As violist of the Houston Symphony Chamber Players, he served on the faculty of Japan's Pacific Music Festival and toured Japan (1993-1995) and Europe (1994 and 1997). He has also appeared at Chicago's Ravinia Festival in 1996 and 1997. With the Houston Symphony Chamber Players, he has recorded works of Webern and Berg. Mr. Brooks served as an associate professor of viola at The Shepherd School of Music from 1985-2001; he taught both solo repertoire and classes focusing on the study of orchestral repertoire. In 1995 Mr. Brooks gave the Houston premiere of Alfred Schnittke's *Viola Concerto* with Christoph Eschenbach and the Houston Symphony. Most recent solo appearances with the Houston Symphony include Berlioz's *Harold in Italy* under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach and Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante, K. 364* with violinist Eric Halen. In February 2007 he presented the world premiere of *La Llorona: Tone Poem for Viola and Orchestra*, a Houston Symphony Orchestra commission by composer Gabriela Lena Frank.

Violist JOAN DERHOVSEPIAN is an Artist Teacher of Viola at The Shepherd School of Music, instructing students in viola orchestral repertoire and chamber music. She became a member of the Houston Symphony in 1999, after serving two seasons as Principal Violist of the Charleston

Symphony Orchestra. Ms. DerHovsepian is an active performer of chamber music in Houston, including the Context, Mukuru, Greenbriar, and Musica concert series. She spends her summers in Wyoming at the Grand Teton Music Festival and in Wisconsin as Principal Violist of the Peninsula Music Festival. As a member of the Everest Quartet, Ms. DerHovsepian concertized throughout the United States and Canada and won top prizes in the Banff and Fischhoff competitions, as well as holding the string quartet residency with the Midland-Odesa Symphony. She played in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1992-94. Ms. DerHovsepian won second prize in the 1995 William Primrose Memorial Scholarship Competition. Her teachers include James Dunham and Kim Kashkashian.

CHRISTOPHER FRENCH is the associate principal cellist of the Houston Symphony. A graduate of North Park University in Chicago, he was the recipient of that school's highest honor, the "Performance Award." In addition to three concerto performances with the Houston Symphony, he has appeared on their Chamber Players series, with Da Camera of Houston, and the Greenbriar Consortium. He is a regular participant in the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego, the Grand Teton Music Festival, and "Music in the Mountains" in Durango, Colorado. Mr. French teaches orchestral repertoire at The Shepherd School of Music and is also actively involved in teaching cello to younger students.

*Cellist KEVIN DVORAK has been a member of the Houston Symphony since 1978 and frequently appeared on the Houston Symphony's INNOVA and Mostly Mozart Chamber Music Series. He has been a past performer in chamber music concerts for the Da Camera of Houston and a regular performer with the Greenbriar Consortium and Mukuru "Arts for AIDS" series. As a student, he was Principal Cellist and "Leader" in a cello ensemble and string orchestra that toured Europe and played in festivals in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, and Tunis, Tunisia. He was artist in residence at the Southern Vermont Arts Festival in Manchester, Vermont, with violinist Carol Glenn and her husband, pianist Eugene List. An ardent chamber music lover, he frequently has concerts in his home with other Houston Symphony musicians to raise money for various charities. Mr. Dvorak's recordings include a String Quartet by Bernard Herrmann and more recently a group of Mozart Flute Quartets featuring Houston Symphony Principal Flutist Aralee Dorough. As a pianist and arranger Mr. Dvorak has arranged music for various ensembles including the "Bad Boys of Cello." His published works include the piano reduction for Schnittke's Viola Concerto, and last year he completed piano four-hand arrangements of the first major symphonic works of film composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold. In 2005, his arrangement of Brahms' **Variations on a Theme of Handel** for string orchestra was premiered by musicians of the Houston Symphony at a benefit for the American Red Cross. In April 2008, he performed forgotten string quartets by Jewish composers in a benefit concert for the Holocaust Museum of Houston.*

Praised for her "lustrous" voice with "gorgeous timbre" and "youthful vigor," mezzo-soprano SONJA BRUZAUSKAS "entrances audiences" throughout the United States. Ms. Bruzauskas has appeared with the Staatsoperette Dresden, the Santa Fe Opera, Volkstheater Rostock, Nordharzer Staedtebundtheater, Babelsberger Filmorchester, and Bochumer Symphoniker, among others. In Texas she has sung with Da Camera of Houston, the Bach Society, Mercury Baroque, Symphony of Southeast Texas, the Greenbriar Consortium, the Houston Chamber Orchestra, and Ars Lyrica.

Ms. Bruzauskas' repertoire embraces a wide range of operatic roles (Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Nancy in *Martha*, Beatrice in *Beatrice et Benedict*, Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus*, The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, to name a few), musical theatre roles (Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*), as well as concert performances (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Handel's *Messiah*, Stravinsky's *Les Noces*, Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion*, *St. John's Passion*, and *Christmas Oratorio*, Caldara's *Christmas Oratorio*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Durufle's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, and many more). Recently, Sonja has been active as a recitalist all over the United States.

Ms. Bruzauskas made her professional opera debuts singing Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel* with the Nordharzer Staedtebundtheater as well as Nancy in *Martha* with the Staatsoperette Dresden, Germany, where she was under a full-time soloist contract for several years prior to her move to the United States. In the U.S., Ms. Bruzauskas made her debut covering Beatrice in *Beatrice et Benedict* and singing the Maidservant in *Simon Boccanegra* during her stay as Apprentice Artist with the Santa Fe Opera.

Upcoming engagements include concerts with Ars Lyrica, Song Salon recitals, Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* with the Greenbriar Consortium, a recital at Louisiana State University, and a concert tour in Japan. Beyond being a performing artist, Ms. Bruzauskas serves as Artistic Director and Vice President for the non-profit organization Divas World Productions.



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